

REMARKS

Claims 2 – 18 and 21 - 34 are pending. Claims 1, 19, 20 are canceled without waiver or prejudice to re-file. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment into the specification and/or claims.

In response to the Office Action Applicant has addressed all the issues raised and submits that the present case is in condition for allowance. To wit:

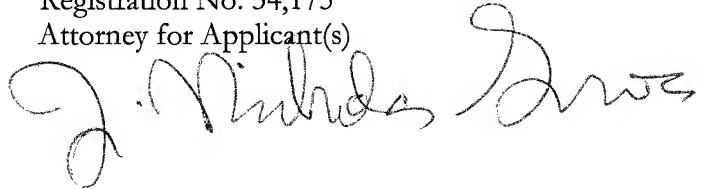
- the § 112 rejection of claim 26 has been rectified through an amendment to clarify the scope of the claim;
- a terminal disclaimer has been provided to moot any double patenting rejections concerning claim 25 and Applicant's other pending applications;
- Claim 1 has been canceled without waiver or prejudice to re-file;
- Based on the Examiner's indication that claims 2, 5, 7 – 9 and 18 are otherwise allowable, Applicant has amended such claims to put them in condition for allowance. In particular:
 - Claims 2, 7, 8 and 9 have been re-written in independent form including all the limitations of any intervening claims;
 - Claims 3 and 12 are amended to now depend from allowable claim 7;
 - Claims 4, 5, 6, 10, 13 – 18 are amended to now depend from allowable claim 2;

Given that all outstanding rejections have been addressed, and any remaining claims conformed to the scope of subject matter indicated as allowable, the undersigned earnestly requests early and favorable allowance of this case.

Please charge any additional fees for the claims to deposit account no. 501-244. Should the Examiner wish to discuss anything related to this case in person, feel free to contact the undersigned at any convenient time.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Nicholas Gross", written in dark ink.

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